GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3490
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2007
VIOLENCE AGAINST DALIT WOMEN
Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel of the United Nations, in March 2007, has expressed its deep concern over increasing incidents of violence committed against the dalit women, their sexual exploitation and trafficking and forcefully pushing them into prostitution;

(b) if so, whether the Racial Discrimination Prevention Committee, in its Geneva meeting ended in March, 2007 has asked the Union Government to set up special courts and task force to deal with such problems and initiate disciplinary and criminal proceedings against the police and other officers responsible for not protecting such people and also to impart training to the police officers, employees, judges and lawyers about the provisions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to prevent the persecution of the dalits?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

(a)&(b) After considering India`s periodic report in February 2007, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had inter alia urged the Government of India for providing members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes protection against acts of discrimination and violence; training for police and judicial officers concerned on the application of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989; disciplinary action against law enforcement officers failing in their duties; providing affected members access to effective remedies, protecting them from retaliation and for making provision for compensation and rehabilitation.

(c)&(d) For ensuring early prosecution of cases under the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, 137 exclusive Special Courts have already been set up in different States and Courts of Sessions have been notified as Special Courts.

Suitable advisories are issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Besides, assistance is provided for awareness generation, strengthening the administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, etc.